

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 12, 1827.

MR. SANFORD made the following report :

The Committee of Foreign Relations having considered the memorial of certain merchants of Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, the memorial of certain merchants of the city of New York, the memorial of certain merchants of the city of Philadelphia, and the memorial of certain merchants of the city of Baltimore, submit their

REPORT :

The memorialists have claims upon the Government of France, arising from seizures and spoliations of their property, made under the authority of France, at different times, between the year 1805 and the year 1813: and they pray that these claims may be prosecuted against France, by such measures as the magnitude and justice of the claims, and the obligations of this Government to its citizens, may require.

Full and numerous expositions of these claims are before this Government and the public; and the committee deem it unnecessary, here, to enter into any detail of facts. It is sufficient to state, that the seizure and sequestration of the vessels and merchandize of our citizens in French ports, by order of the French Government, and the capture of some of our vessels, and the destruction of others, on the high seas, by the authority of France, are the grave injuries for which our citizens seek redress.

For these injuries, France is responsible; these claims of our citizens are, clearly, just; and it is the duty of this Government to prosecute them against the Government of France.

The efforts which have been heretofore made by this Government, to obtain redress for these injuries from France, are also well known. They have been able, strenuous, and repeated; but they have been wholly without success. Still, the committee are unwilling to believe that France has definitively refused to listen to the voice of justice: and they are of opinion that one farther effort should be solemnly made, by negotiation, to obtain redress. Entertaining this opinion, the committee do not, at this time, recommend any legislative measure. Negotiation belongs to the Executive branch of the Government; and it is not doubted, that every proper exertion of the Executive authority will be made, to pursue this object and obtain just redress.

The committee, therefore, ask to be discharged from further consideration of these memorials.

